

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2012

# THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

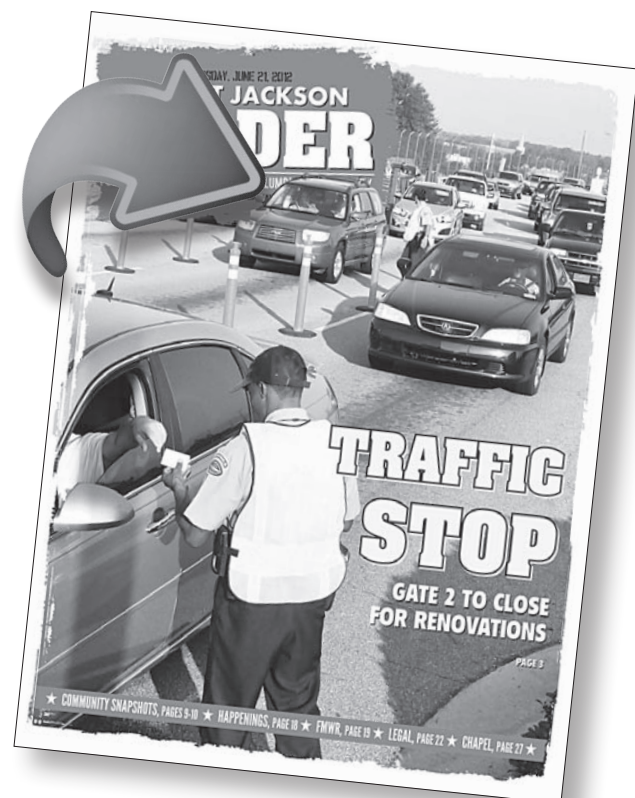
PUBLISHED FOR THE FORT JACKSON/COLUMBIA  
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## TRAFFIC STOP

GATE 2 TO CLOSE  
FOR RENOVATIONS

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## ON THE COVER

Photo by WALLACE McBRIDE

Jazzmar Benjamin checks a driver's identification at Gate 2 earlier this week. A renovation project is scheduled to temporarily close Gate 2 later this summer. **SEE PAGE 3.**



### Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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For questions or concerns about subscriptions, call (803) 432-6157. To submit articles, story ideas or announcements, write the Fort Jackson Leader, Fort Jackson, S.C. 29207, call (803) 751-7045 or e-mail [fjleader@gmail.com](mailto:fjleader@gmail.com).

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Website: [www.jackson.army.mil](http://www.jackson.army.mil)

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## COMMANDER'S CALL

# Disabled veterans stay 'Army Strong' at gym

## Spirit and determination on display at fitness center

The Perez Fitness Center has quietly become a place where disabled veterans can keep their minds and bodies fit, but there's also something else taking place there, and it is probably something that all of us should notice — I certainly have. Even when my son Brandon visited Fort Jackson, he commented on diversity of the patrons — young and old.

Donna Madl, the Perez Fitness Center facility manager, considers it magical.

"A lot of the young Soldiers who come in here can see these veterans, that they're disabled and are working out. I think it lets them know that there is life after ... that people live with disabilities and can prosper."

The fitness center doesn't have any specialized programs for people with disabilities. Yet because of the attitudes of the staff and the facility's willingness to create an environment that is adaptable for people of different needs, it has slowly become a hub of activity for disabled veterans.

You can find groups meeting unofficially in the mornings throughout the week and I've noticed that when patrons haven't been there for a day or so, they're questioned upon their return.

Veterans make up a large part of the customer base there. They are in their 30s and 40s, and some are even into their 80s. A lot of them use physical fitness as a stress reliever. It's an integral part of their lives, and something they have carried on since their military days. It's a family-type environment at the gym, so people go there to work out, but they also go there to shoot the breeze and socialize. You can find me there many mornings, but, of course, I go there to work out. LOL...I also enjoy shooting the breeze from time to time with the "distinguished" men and women who are faithfully there. They are always harassing each other about something — very often it's Army-, Navy-, Air Force- or Marine-related ... and they do drag me into it.

The equipment is arranged so that frequently-used items are easily accessible. Things are spaced appropriately and machines that are used regu-

larly are near the ends and corners.

The staff members are always willing to lend a helping hand as well. Staff members help them put on their gloves, assist them with the equipment ... any kind of help they need, the staff provides it.

Recently, we renovated the fitness center to make

it more accessible to people with differing abilities. A handicapped stall has been added to the men's bathroom, and handicapped, seated shower stalls are now located in the men's and women's locker rooms. As I said when I got here, "People — All People are what make Fort Jackson strong!"

Madl refers to one longtime patron as her hero. She said, "he comes in here all the time and works out no matter how he feels. I think that's huge, and if it affects me that way, it certainly has to affect other people that way."

The spirit and determination of all of the veterans I see in Perez Gym have an impact on me as well.

America is obligated to make good on its promise to those who served. While we sometimes get sidetracked with the legislation of that commitment, it's important not to lose track of those small moments of compassion that make the Fort Jackson community so special. Thanks, thanks to all the People who make "our" community so special. It is indeed "the great place."

Victory Starts Here! Victory 6



Photo by WALLACE McBRIDE

Mike Steward is among the disabled veterans who spend their mornings working out at Perez Gym on Fort Jackson.



Follow Brig. Gen. Bryan T. Roberts at [www.facebook.com/FortJacksonCommandingGeneral](http://www.facebook.com/FortJacksonCommandingGeneral)



Photo by WALLACE McBRIDE

Line Grant, a Fort Jackson gate guard, stops a driver at Gate 2 Tuesday. The gate, which is the main access point for many to get on post, will close for renovations starting July 9. The renovation will include visual upgrades and lane modifications to enhance traffic flow.

# Gate 2 to shut down for renovations

By **ANDREW McINTYRE**  
Fort Jackson Leader

Drivers entering Fort Jackson through Gate 2 will soon have to find a temporary alternative and allow some extra time for their commute. The gate is scheduled to close for renovations July 9 through Sept. 20.

The upgrades are part of an effort to accommodate traffic and meet Department of Defense regulations for security control access points on post.

The gate will receive additional lanes, existing lanes will be widened, and a new sign will be built. The cost to complete this project has yet to be determined.

During the renovation, Gate 2 will be completely closed to all in- and outbound traffic. Officials are asking motorists to plan for delays during the renovation

period.

"If you're coming from West Columbia, and you normally make it here on time, I suggest leaving West Columbia 15 to 20 minutes earlier," said Fernando Vasquez, installation physical security officer.

Starting July 9, Gate 4 will be open only for inbound traffic from 5 to 9 a.m. to help facilitate morning traffic flow. The gate will be open around the clock.

Vasquez said the garrison commander was presented with two options to renovate the gate. The better option was to complete the gate in a one-phase three-month project. Many different factors played into the decision of completing the renovation during this month, Vasquez said.

The gate upgrades will allow the post to maintain its safety standards, Vasquez said.

"Safety is not going to change, because we have a

very proactive police program here on Fort Jackson. You will still have to get checked in order to come on post," Vasquez said.

He said the changes will not only be with regard to safety, though.

"(The community) can expect to see a better looking gate, and we are going to be able to accommodate for commercial trucks," Vasquez said.

Directorate of Emergency Services officials urge commuters who choose Gate 1 on Fort Jackson Boulevard as their alternate access point not to block the access road from the King's Grant community when waiting to enter the gate.

All personnel accessing Fort Jackson between July 9 and Sept. 15 should allow additional time to ensure they arrive at their destination on time.

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**facebook**

# Post prepares for hurricane season

By **WALLACE McBRIDE**  
Fort Jackson Leader

Hurricane season started June 1 and has already produced tropical storms Alberto, Beryl and Chris, with the next three storms to be christened Debby, Ernesto and Florence as they appear in the South Atlantic. Experts are predicting 14 tropical storms this season, six of which are likely to become full-fledged hurricanes.

Earlier this week, Fort Jackson conducted training sessions for its seven emergency shelter managers, putting them through exercises that simulated the various problems that arise when trying to help people during widespread emergencies.

"The first portion of the training will teach the technical procedures that Red Cross provides for shelter management, such as tracking personnel, and getting their correct personnel data," said R.J. Frazier, Fort Jackson's all hazards emergency manager.

When people arrive at shelters, they bring with them a number of unresolved problems, and are rarely well prepared, he said.

"Many of these folks who would come in might have lost everything, or have left in a hurry and might not have identification," Frazier said. "The shelter managers will have to keep account of personnel, and get folks accessed with the proper agencies and tools that they need. We might have to get them clothes, blankets, contact with (the Federal Emergency Management Agency), food and the basics."

Volunteers had an assortment of scenarios to choose from when challenging the shelter managers, involving different kinds of family separations, special physical and medical needs, caring for infants and other potential issues.

"We have to tailor a package to assist these people inside the shelter," Frazier said. "Our intent is to provide those shelter managers from all the different units with the crucial tools to help those people make as smooth a transition as possible."

The session also focused on National Incident Management System compliance, a standardized approach to inci-



Photo by **ANDREW McINTYRE**

**From left, R.J. Frazier, all hazards emergency manager, Scottie Thomas, manager of the Emergency Operations Center, and Mark Mallach, anti-terrorism officer, discuss hurricane preparedness measures during an exercise Wednesday at Pierce Terrace Elementary School.**

dent management that enables easier cross communication between state and federal agencies.

"We learned through Hurricane Katrina and Sept. 11 that we're not all talking the same language," he said. "You have to be vigilant, you've got to be attentive and you've got to be caring."

But hurricanes and tropical storms aren't the only kinds of natural disasters that South Carolina has to worry about. The state sits on a fault line and was the scene of one of the most powerful earthquakes to ever hit the Southeast in

1886, when a magnitude-7.6 earthquake caused millions of dollars in damage.

"We're overdue for our next major earthquake by several years," Frazier said. "Historically, it's been every 100 or 110 years that we have a significant earthquake in this region. We need to have the community ready at ground level."

For more information on hurricane preparedness, visit <http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>.

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## 2-39th shares birthday cake

From left, Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis King, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment, Ruth Ann Bundy, JROTC cadet, retired Col. Robert Clark, JCLC camp commandant, and Maj. Damasio Davila, 2-39th executive officer, cut the Army birthday cake, June 14. About 200 cadets with the Army Junior Reserve Officer Training program participated in the JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge and had the opportunity to celebrate the Army Birthday with the 2-39th.

Photo by **JAMES ARROWOOD**,  
command photographer



## News and Notes

### 120TH WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER



VALLEY

mand at Fort Knox, Ky.

Lt. Col. Vincent Valley assumed command of the 120th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception) in a ceremony Friday. Valley, who previously served with the 8th Theater Sustainment Command at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, replaces Lt. Col. Michael McTigue, whose next assignment will be as Adjutant General Branch chief with Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, Ky.

### 1-34TH GREETES NEW COMMANDER



FLESCH

Lt. Col. Eric Flesch assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment in a ceremony Tuesday. Flesch, who previously served with the 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment at Fort Bragg, N.C., replaces Lt. Col. Quincy Norman, who is scheduled to deploy.

### ROAD CLOSED

Sumter Avenue is closed between Ferguson Avenue and Magruder Avenue. The closure is necessary because of construction of new water and sewer utility lines. The road is scheduled to reopen July 16.

### JULY 4 CELEBRATION SET

This year's Salute to the Nation celebration is scheduled for 8 p.m., July 4 at Hilton Field. Gates open at 4 p.m.

### PPE REQUIRED FOR VISITORS

Visitors of this year's Salute to the Nation celebration riding motorcycles are required to wear protective equipment to get access to the installation. Riders must wear a DoT- or SNELL-approved helmet, eye protection, a long-sleeved shirt, a reflective vest, long pants, over-the-ankle foot wear and full-finger gloves. Motorcycle riders without the proper protective equipment will not be allowed access to the installation.

### ACTIVE DUTY GET IN FREE AT PARKS

Active duty service members can now get a free annual pass to national parks and federal recreation lands. The pass can be picked up at any national park or wildlife refuge that charges an entrance fee.

For a list of participating sites, visit <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/PassIssuanceList.pdf>.

### LEGAL NOTICE

Anyone with debts owed to or by the estate of Sgt. 1st Class Ronald R. Peters must contact Capt. Tina Franklin, the summary court martial officer for the Soldier. Peters passed away May 21. Contact Franklin by calling 751-7375 or via email at [Tina.Franklin@us.army.mil](mailto:Tina.Franklin@us.army.mil).

Follow the Leader on Twitter  
at [www.twitter.com/fortjacksonpao](http://www.twitter.com/fortjacksonpao).



Courtesy photo

As part of the United Through Reading program, a former day room at the USO building at McCrady Training Center has been converted into a reading room where parents can record video of themselves reading stories to their children.

# Reading program keeps military families connected

By WALLACE McBRIDE  
*Fort Jackson Leader*

For almost a decade, United Through Reading has been helping military parents maintain a connection to their children during deployment. Last year, United Through Reading partnered with USO South Carolina to bring the program to McCrady Training Center, setting up shop in a former day room at the camp's USO office.

"For these young children, it's so important for them to be able to see their parents' faces and hear their voices," said Joanie Thresher, director of USO South Carolina. "When they come home, they haven't forgotten their face or their voice, and they're not as afraid."

Thresher said United Through Reading is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization that partnered with the USO nine years ago, but didn't begin on Fort Jackson until last fall.

"We've had several hundred Soldiers and Sailors take part since we started in September," said Katie Kennedy, USO programs manager. USO representatives visit the post every three weeks to stage and record men and women reading stories to children. Last Sunday, 32 people spent the day recording readings of 90 books.

"We have a library of books at Camp McCrady in our USO office there," Kennedy said. "The person who is getting ready to deploy goes into that room and selects a book based on the child's age. We then record (the person) on a DVD reading that book to the child, and we send the book and DVD to that child. Of course, it's all free."

"It can take anywhere from five minutes to five hours, depending on how many children (the service members) have," Thresher said. "They can read one book per child and can record up to 30 minutes per DVD to read that book."

Master Chief Petty Officer Mark Seifert, senior enlisted leader of the Navy Individual Augmentee Center Training at Fort Jackson, said participants don't always record stories for their own children.

"I've done it myself for my granddaughter for her second birthday, which was this month," Seifert said. "As a participant, it's pretty awesome. It's a wonderful thing."

Kennedy said the book and disc are usually mailed within the week, but that the delivery time can be scheduled to fit a family's needs. Thresher said National Guard troops sometimes train at McCrady Training Center several months prior to deployment, and need the packages to be delivered at a later date.

"They've asked us not to mail them until they are 'boots on the ground' to wherever they're going," Thresher said. "We abide by whatever their desire is and will mail them when they've asked us to."

Thresher said the video recording isn't limited to parents simply reading. The room is designed with a variety of activities in mind.

"The room is gorgeous," Thresher said. "They can write on the chalkboard, play with the stuffed animals, wish their children good night ... reading the book is important, but so is the interaction that child had with the parent through the DVD."

The USO accepts donations of new books, but United Through Reading maintains a list of approved titles that are used in the program.

"We also need postage," Thresher said. "As a nonprofit, we have to be able to raise those monies to ship these books. Katie has started programs with schools and different organizations where they do Pennies for Postage or different fundraisers, so that we can get these books home for the troops."

"We had a Soldier that had just had a baby the week before, and he was going to be deployed for nine months to a year," Thresher said. "He said 'Thank you for letting me do this, for letting me be part of my child's life.' Without support from the community, this is something we wouldn't be able to do."

Seifert said digital media has done a lot to connect military families during the last decade, but there's still nothing like receiving a letter.

"That's what makes snail mail special," he said. "It's more personal when you get an actual letter."

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# CES employee eligibility gets overhaul

By JULIA BOBICK

U.S. Army Recruiting Command

The Army has redefined employee eligibility for its complement of Civilian Education System leader development courses, as well as the rules for receiving course equivalency credit based on previous military education and training.

“We wanted to eliminate any confusion and establish a clearly progressive leader development model for our civilian workforce,” said Vicki Brown, chief of the Army’s Civilian Training and Leader Development Division, Army G3/5/7 Training Directorate.

In addition, she said the changes were implemented to help all Army leaders, supervisors and managers better define command training requirements, more clearly understand their civilian employees’ training and leader development requirements and make appropriate recommendations for their professional development.

Civilian Education System, or CES, courses are aligned with a civilian employee’s grade level similar to the way the Army has identified grade requirements in the Non-commissioned Officer Education System, Warrant Officer Education System, and Officer Education System. The realignment will allow for greater consistency of requirements development across commands and organizations, provide deliberate progressive development for Army civilian employees and meet the Department of Defense Instruction 1430.16 to grow civilian leaders.

Eligibility is based on the following grade levels, with first priority given to supervisors, managers and team leaders, in accordance with Army Regulation 350-1, Army Training and Leader Development.

- ❑ Basic Course: GS-01 to GS-09 or equivalent pay band
- ❑ Intermediate Course: GS-10 to GS-12 or equivalent band
- ❑ Advanced Course: GS-13 to GS-15 or equivalent band (no change)
- ❑ Continuing Education for Senior Leaders: GS-14 to GS-15 or equivalent (no change)

In addition, the Foundation Course is required for all civilian employees (GS-01 to GS-15 or equivalent) hired after Sept. 30, 2006. If required, the Foundation Course must be completed before employees are eligible to apply for the resident phase of their target CES leader course.

The Civilian Education System, administered by the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command through the Army Management Staff College, provides centrally funded progressive leader development courses for the Army’s civilian workforce commensurate with that of uniformed members.

“It’s important for employees to learn about the system and the programs available to them so they can take ownership of their own development,” Brown said. “A successful career always requires active management and the best person to manage your career is you. No one else has as much at stake in the outcome of your career decisions, and no one else will work as hard to ensure success.”

When employees create/update their profiles and register for CES courses within the Civilian Human Resource Training Application System, or CHRTAS, they will see the CES course for which they are eligible based on grade level and previous professional military education and civilian leader development course completions recorded in the Army Training Requirements and Resource System, known as ATRRS.

In addition, the “10-year rule” for receiving course equivalency credit has been eliminated. Individuals may now receive credit for legacy civilian or military leader development courses regardless of when they completed the courses. CHRTAS automatically determines equivalent course credit for PME and civilian leader development courses that have been approved for equivalent credit by TRADOC.

The list of courses is available in the ‘Resources’ section of the Army

G-3/5/7 Civilian Training and Leader Development website at [www.civiliantraining.army.mil](http://www.civiliantraining.army.mil), and in CHRTAS via the main menu under “About CES Course Credit.”

Equivalent credit will only be granted for CES courses for which the individual is eligible by grade. For example, employees who are GS-11, GS-12 or equivalent may not receive credit for the Advanced Course because they are not yet grade-eligible to attend the Advanced Course. Once employees advance to the appropriate grade, equivalency will be automatically assigned in CHRTAS if they previously completed the higher level equivalent course.

Employees with current course reservations will not be affected by the new eligibility rules that went into effect in May.

To learn more about and register for CES courses and other Army civilian professional training and leader development opportunities, visit [www.civiliantraining.army.mil](http://www.civiliantraining.army.mil). The fiscal year 2013 training schedule for the Civilian Education System (CES) courses is now available in CHRTAS and qualified employees may begin registering for Phase II (resident) courses. Follow CES on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/armyciviliantraining](http://www.facebook.com/armyciviliantraining).

## Housing Happenings

### COMMUNITY UPDATES

❑ Staff Sgt. Charles Louguens is the comment card winner for May. Residents who complete a comment card after interacting with Balfour Beatty Communities staff are eligible to win \$100.

❑ First-time home buyers in South Carolina are eligible to participate in the State Housing Program, which offers a fixed interest rate as low as 4 percent. For more information, visit [www.schousing.com](http://www.schousing.com) or call 896-9396.

❑ The Housing Services Offices provides assistance with finding rental homes and reviewing lease agreements. For more information, call 751-5788/7566 or visit the office at 4514 Stuart Ave.

❑ Residents are urged to be mindful when using charcoal and gas grills. Grills are not allowed to be used indoors and must be no closer than 10 feet to a building or enclosed shelter. Propane tanks must not be stored indoors.

❑ A workshop on how to clear housing is scheduled for 9 a.m., Friday at the Community Center.

❑ The Home Ventilation Institute recommends that you use kitchen ventilation fans while cooking and bathroom ventilation fans for 30 minutes after each shower. Fans help minimize excess humidity in the home, reduce condensation and promote good indoor air quality.

❑ The Mayoral Council is looking for volunteers to serve as mayors of the Fort Jackson housing community. Child care is provided while performing mayoral duties. Interested residents should contact Vickie Grier at 751-7567.

❑ LifeWorks events are reserved for on-post housing residents unless otherwise indicated. For questions, comments or suggestions, email [ayoungblood@bbcgrp.com](mailto:ayoungblood@bbcgrp.com).

❑ Refer someone to move on post to receive \$200.

## UPCOMING CHANGES OF COMMAND/RESPONSIBILITY

❑ **Friday — 193rd Infantry Brigade:** Col. Joseph McLamb will assume command from Col. Drew Meyero-wich; 9 a.m.; Officers’ Club.

❑ **Wednesday — 4th Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment:** Lt. Col. Joseph Purvis will assume command from Lt. Col. Robert Fouche; 9 a.m.; Officers’ Club.

❑ **June 29 — U.S. Army Garrison Fort Jackson:** Col. Michael Graese will assume command from Col. James Love; 9 a.m.; Officers’ Club.

❑ **June 29 — 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment:** Command Sgt. Maj. Neal Seals will assume responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Delvalleallicea; 1 p.m.; battalion headquarters.

❑ **July 2 — 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment:** Lt. Col. Gregory Trahan will assume command from Lt. Col. Matthew Zimmerman; 9 a.m.; Officers’ Club.

❑ **July 12 — Training Support Battalion:** Lt. Col. Neil Mahabir will assume command from Lt. Col. Sula Irish; 8:30 a.m.; Officers’ Club.

❑ **July 20 — 171st Infantry Brigade:** Col. Mark Bieger will assume command from Col. George Donovan; 9 a.m.; Officers’ Club.

❑ **Aug. 21 — 369th Adjutant General Battalion:** Lt. Col. David Jones will assume command from Lt. Col. Edward Allen; 8:30 a.m.; Darby Field.

❑ **Aug. 30 — Recruiting and Retention School:** Command Sgt. Maj. Tory Hendrieth will assume responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Donna Punihaole; time and location to be determined.

To announce a battalion level or above Change of Command/Responsibility, call 751-7045 or email [fjleader@gmail.com](mailto:fjleader@gmail.com).

## Leader deadlines

Article submissions are due two weeks before publication.

For example, an article for the July 6 Leader must be submitted by Friday.

Announcement submissions are due one week before publication.

For example, an announcement for the July 6 Leader must be submitted by June 28.

Send your submissions to [FJLeader@gmail.com](mailto:FJLeader@gmail.com).

For more information, call 751-7045.





*Photos by JAMES ARROWOOD, command photographer*

## Happy Birthday, Army!

An estimated 860 members of the Fort Jackson community and friends of the installation celebrate the Army's 237th birthday with a ball at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center Saturday. Above photo: From left, Brig. Gen. Bryan Roberts, Fort Jackson's commanding general, Melvin Bryant, a veteran of World War II and Vietnam, and Post Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Benson cut the birthday cake. Right photo: A yellow rose, symbolizing love for fallen Soldiers, sits on an empty table reserved for absent comrades. Left Photo: Post Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Benson places a campaign streamer on the Army flag.





Official White House Photo by PETE SOUZA

Fatherhood Buzz

President Barack Obama talks with four fathers participating in the new “Fatherhood Buzz” campaign, as they wait for their lunch at Kenny’s BBQ Smokehouse in Washington, June 13. Joining the President, from left, are Nurney Mason, 1st Lt. William Edwards of Fort Jackson, Otis Gamble and Capt. Joubert Paulino.



Photos by ANDREW McINTYRE

Chapel dedication

The Most Rev. Timothy Broglio, Archbishop of the Military Service in the United States, dedicates a chapel at the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center, Friday, in honor of Navy Chaplain Vincent Capodanno. Capodanno was killed in Vietnam while ministering to troops. During the dedication ceremony, Broglio offered a prayer and sprinkled the chapel with Holy Water.

## COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS



### Family Shelter cookout

Photo by ANDREW McINTYRE

Soldiers with the NCO Academy Senior Leaders Course, Class 018-12 host a cookout for the Family Shelter of Columbia and the local community Friday. The Soldiers served food and played games with children from the shelter. The Family Shelter provides resources for families in need. Soldiers are chosen to attend the Senior Leaders Course to build mentoring skills as senior non-commissioned officers.



Courtesy photo

### Spiritual Fitness Breakfast

Lt. Col. David Cooper, Third Army/ARCENT operations chaplain, speaks to members of Third Army/ARCENT during a Spiritual Fitness Breakfast at Shaw Air Force Base June 13. The event offered Soldiers, Airmen and Department of the Army civilians an opportunity to worship and grow spiritually.



### Yard of the Month

Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Michael Romero, 369th Adjutant General Battalion, and his wife, Amanda, are the winners of the Yard of the Month competition for June. They were presented with a certificate of appreciation and numerous gifts by Col. James Love, garrison commander, right, and Master Sgt. Willie Yarbray, left, the acting garrison command sergeant major. Also pictured are the family's children, from left, Kiara, 10, and Desmond, 7.

# Competitors prove their warrior spirit

Our 2012 Platoon Sergeant, NCO and Soldier of the Year competition truly tested the mental and physical strength as well as the tactical and technical abilities of 10 Fort Jackson warriors.

We started with two platoon sergeant competitors representing the 187th Ordnance Battalion and the 369th Adjutant General Battalion, three noncommissioned officers from our two Basic Combat Training brigades as well as one NCO from the U.S Army Chaplain Center and School, and four Soldiers from our two BCT brigades. Every competitor completed the four-day competition and truly displayed the very best of what our Soldiers at Fort Jackson are all about.

Of course, no week in June would be complete without high levels of heat and humidity, but this week we added a few torrential downpours to boot.

Starting with the Army Physical Fitness Test early Tuesday morning, the competitors completed tasks for

## Commentary

By  
**COMMAND SGT. MAJ.  
KEVIN BENSON**  
*Fort Jackson  
command sergeant major*



up to 21 hours a day and most averaged about four to five total hours of sleep throughout the four-day competition. They were tested in almost every aspect of being a cadre member in a TRADOC organization and displayed their prowess in numerous tasks that showcased their ability to shoot, move and communicate.

We set up this competition up as close as possible to what our winners will see at TRADOC level. A lot of preparation and teamwork went into this event, and our G3 had the lead. I appreciate the support from every unit on the installation.

All the competitors are winners, as they have set themselves apart from their peers. To get to this level they had to perform at numerous subordinate layers and truly are the best our units have to offer. It is always unfortunate that we have only one winner per category who will move on to the next level of competition.

All competitors are better than when they started and go back to their units of assignment as even better Soldiers.

We wish the best to our three winners, and I know that it will be extremely difficult to beat them at the next level of competition.

## FIRST RESPONDER

**Lt. Col.  
Raymond Simons**  
*Director, Emergency Services*

**Maj. Bradford Fisher**  
*Provost Marshal*

**Sgt. Maj. Bruce Sirois**  
*Provost Sergeant Major*

**Bill Forrester**  
*Fire Chief*



The following are incidents compiled from reports, complaints or information received from the Fort Jackson Provost Marshal Office.

The incidents reflected are not an adjudication attesting to the guilt or innocence of any person and are provided for informational and reflective purposes only.

### CASES OF THE WEEK

□ DA police assumed custody of a Soldier who was held at Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center after being arrested for disorderly conduct, officials said. The Soldier was taken to the Military Police sta-

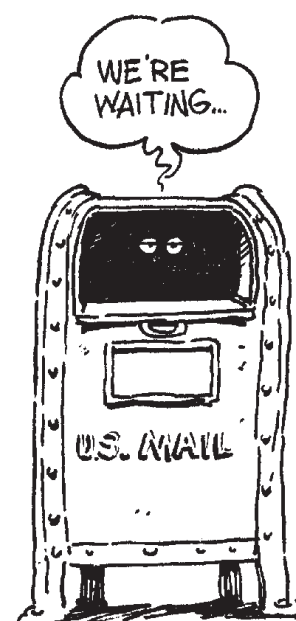
tion, where he was processed before being released to his unit.

□ MPs responded to a call about a verbal altercation in the housing area between two family members, according to reports.

**crimestoppers**  
**1-888-559-TIPS**  
[www.midlandscrimestoppers.com](http://www.midlandscrimestoppers.com)

## LETTERS Editor

The *Leader* welcomes letters to the editor. All letters should include the name and address of the writer. Letters should also include a phone number for verification purposes. The *Leader* reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, style, spelling and brevity. Send your letter to [FJLeader@gmail.com](mailto:FJLeader@gmail.com). Call 751-7045 for information.



# Saluting this Basic Combat Training cycle's honorees

## DRILL SERGEANTS OF THE CYCLE



**Staff Sgt.**  
**Joshua Buck**  
Company B  
1st Battalion,  
61st Infantry Regiment  
**SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE**  
Spc. Ross Schanck

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Pfc. Hailey McKneely

**HIGH APFT SCORE**  
Pfc. Andrea Strickland

**HIGH BRM**  
Pvt. Benjamin Schingen



**Staff Sgt.**  
**Kamilo Lara**  
Company C  
1st Battalion,  
61st Infantry Regiment  
**SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE**  
Spc. Rachael Cox

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Pfc. David Kratky

**HIGH APFT SCORE**  
Pvt. Aaron Greichunos

**HIGH BRM**  
Pvt. Andrew Eberst



**Staff Sgt.**  
**Georgiana Hall**  
Company D  
1st Battalion,  
61st Infantry Regiment  
**SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE**  
Pfc. Brady Rowe

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Pvt. Tiler Hubbard

**HIGH APFT SCORE**  
Spc. James Christy

**HIGH BRM**  
Pvt. Jeremy Shippy

## SUPPORT AWARDS OF THE CYCLE

**STAFF SUPPORT**  
Sgt. Peter Dolan

**TRAINING SUPPORT**  
William Sansbury

**FAMILY SUPPORT**  
Stacey Buck

**SERVICE SUPPORT**  
Johann Sumpter

**DFAC SUPPORT**  
Queenie Chaney

# Training honors



GRUNDY



LEE

**Sgt. 1st Class**  
**Robert Grundy**  
Drill sergeant of the cycle  
Company A  
Task Force Marshall

**Staff Sgt.**  
**Aaron Lee**  
Drill sergeant of the cycle  
Company C  
Task Force Marshall

### Want more Fort Jackson news?

**Watch Fort Jackson video news stories  
and Victory Updates  
at [http://www.vimeo.com/  
user3022628](http://www.vimeo.com/user3022628)**

Follow the Leader on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/  
fortjacksonpao](http://www.twitter.com/fortjacksonpao).

At your service

Phone numbers and operation hours for key post facilities

All South Federal Credit Union	782-9830	Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
American Red Cross	751-/4329/5923	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Andy’s Fitness Center	751-4177	Monday-Friday, 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; call for hours on training and federal holidays
Army Career Alumni Program	751-4109/4104	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Army Community Service	751-5256	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Army Continuing Education Services	751-5341	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Army Substance Abuse Program	751-5007	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Basic Combat Training Museum	751-7419	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Family Day, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Bowling, Century Lanes	751-6138	Closed Monday; Tuesday-Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 1 p.m. to midnight; Sunday, 2 to 10 p.m.
Bowling, Ivy Lanes	751-4759	(For use by Soldiers in training): Thursday, 1 to 8:30 p.m.; Friday, 5:30 to 9 p.m., Saturday, 1 to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Car Care Center	782-1639	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Chaplain Museum	751-8827/8079	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Child and Youth Services	751-4865	Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center	751-3219	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Class VI	782-1601	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Clinical Army Substance Abuse Program	751-6597	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Coleman Gym	751-5896	Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; weekends, training holidays and holidays except Christmas and New Year’s Day, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Commissary	751-5789	Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
DA Photos (TSC)	751-7592	Monday-Thursday, 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.
Defense Military Pay Office	751-6669 (Soldiers)	Monday-Friday, 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4 p.m. Civilians should call 751-4914.
Dental Clinics	751-5178/6017	Monday-Friday, 7:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Family Health Center	751-2273	Monday-Friday, 7:20 a.m. to 8 p.m.; training holidays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Family Life Resiliency Center	751-4961	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Florist	738-1812	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Fort Jackson National Cemetery	699-2246	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Furniture Store	787-9175	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Hospital Retail Annex	782-1263	Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
ID Section	751-7731	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Legal Assistance and Claims	751-4287/3603	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
LCI-SSSC	790-5306	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Main Outpatient Pharmacy	751-2259	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
MG Robert B. Solomon Center	751-4056	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Military Clothing Sales Store	787-5248	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Movie Theater	751-7488	Hours vary
National Federation of Federal Employees	751-2622	
NCO Club	782-2218	Temporarily closed
Officers’ Club	751-4906	Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday brunch, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Palmetto Falls Water Park	751-3475	Tuesday-Saturday and holidays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 7 p.m.
Perez Fitness Center	751-6258	Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; weekends and training holidays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Pharmacy Annex (PX mall)	751-2250	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Pool, Knight	751-4796	Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Pool, Legion	751-4987	Monday and Wednesday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 6 p.m.
Post Exchange	787-1950/1951/1952	Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Post Library	751-5589/4816	Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Post Office	782-8709	Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Recycling Center	751-4208	Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Reuse Center	751-5121	Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Safety Center	751-6004	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Gate 1 Express	782-2076	Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gate 2 Express	790-4478	Open 24 hours a day
SSI Retail Annex	738-9189	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Thrift Shop	787-2153	Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Vanguard Gym	751-4384	Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 1 to 8 p.m.
Veterinary Clinic	751-7160	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Victory Travel	751-5812	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed on federal holidays
Weapons Registration	751-5887	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Weston Lake	751-5253	Oct. 1 through April 30: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; May 1 through Sept. 30: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Anything we missed? E-mail us at [fjleader@gmail.com](mailto:fjleader@gmail.com).



Sgt. 1st Class Alissa Guzman finds cover behind a tree during a simulated direct fire exercise. Soldiers communicated with hand and arm signals before moving. Guzman was among the 10 Soldiers competing June 12-15 for the titles of Platoon Sergeant of the Year, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Soldier of the Year at Fort Jackson. The winners of this year's competition will go on to compete at the TRADOC level next week.

Photos by ANDREW McINTYRE

# WARRIOR ELITE

## Fort Jackson Soldiers put bodies, minds to the test in competitions

By ANDREW McINTYRE  
Fort Jackson Leader

Ten of Fort Jackson's best Soldiers vied for the titles of Platoon Sergeant of the Year, Non-commissioned Officer of the Year and Soldier of the Year during a competition June 12-15.

Staff Sgt. Michael Henry, Sgt. 1st Class Alissa Guzman and Spc. Robert Smead Jr. emerged from the competition as this year's winners.

"They bust out here to do the Fit to Win Obstacle Course; it definitely takes some energy out of them. It's just a perfect environment - it's pouring rain and muddy so they got good and dirty," said Post Command Sgt. Major Kevin Benson.

Each competitor completed four days of graded exercise tasks and a formal review board.

"We have made the competition identical to the next level of board. We kind of try to make it identical to prepare our Soldiers, and, of course you can't be the center of excellence for all of the Army unless you have representation at all levels," Benson said. "Our goal is to go to TRADOC and win at every level, but you can't do that unless you put the time and investment in early on."

Benson stood before the competitors as they walked into the room in a single file line to hear the results of the competition. As the winners' names were called out competitors stood eager to hear this year's winner.

Henry, assigned to 187th Ordnance Battalion, and Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Croteau, 369th Adjutant General Battalion, went head-to-head for the title of Platoon Sergeant of the Year.

The two platoon sergeants were neck-and-neck the entire competition until the very end, when Henry pulled it out, Benson said.

Henry said the competition was well-planned and executed, and that it was challenging.

"All the competitors were challenging, I enjoyed it," he said. "It's a lot of pride to compete against one of the best noncommissioned officers out there, and I look forward to the next challenge."

Croteau shared a similar sentiment.

"I thought it was a good competition. The events were very challenging. The competition was very steep. I thought it was a very good competition overall," Croteau said.

Guzman, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment, competed against three NCOs in order to claim her title as NCO of the Year.

"Overall, I am my biggest critic. Overall, I think I did OK. I completed everything asked of me," Guzman said.

Guzman said she felt a little pressure to perform well during the competition as she felt she was representing not only herself, but women in the military.

"Honestly I love the Army," Guzman said. "I look for any opportunity the Army presents to me. This will allow me to continue as a leader, as a trainer, and when I come in contact with my leaders, peers and subordinates, I will have something to offer."

Smead, the Soldier of the Year, felt the competition was very physically demanding — more than he expected.

"The very first day and events leading up to land navigation were the hardest," Smead said.

Although, he said the contest was very demanding physically, he found that competing was an honor.

"Not a lot of people get to compete in something like this. For me personally, this will give me the confidence to keep pushing forward," Smead said.

The winners of this year's competition will go on to compete at the TRADOC level next week.

Andrew.R.McIntyre.civ@mail.mil



Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Croteau runs to find cover behind a wooden barrier for the simulated direct live fire exercise. Battle drills were demonstrated with a team member to receive full credit for the exercise.



Post Command Sergeant Major Kevin Benson speaks to competitors about their evaluation during the competition and announces this year's winners.



Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Croteau fires an M-4 carbine rifle to receive points during marksmanship qualification.

Calendar

*Wednesday, July 4*  
**Salute to the Nation celebration**  
8 p.m., Hilton Field  
Gates open 4 p.m.

*Friday, July 13*  
**Fort Jackson birthday celebration**  
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Solomon Center

*Tuesday, July 17*  
**Helping Hands award presentation**  
9 a.m., Joe E. Mann Center

Housing events

*All events are held in the Community Center, 520 Brown Ave., unless otherwise specified. Call 738-8275 for information.*

*Throughout the summer*  
**Free popsicle Fridays**  
Children can stop by the Community Center every Friday this summer for a free popsicle while supplies last.

Announcements

**REGISTRATION FOR NEW STUDENTS**  
Registration for grades three through six at C.C. Pinckney Elementary School is scheduled for 8 a.m. to noon, Tuesday through Thursday, July 9 through Aug. 8. The following documents are required: copy of birth certificate; current orders and

ID card for military sponsor and spouse; proof of immunizations; housing lease agreement or letter from housing verifying that the family is on the waiting list.

**YOUTH SPORTS REGISTRATION**  
Registration for the Child Youth and School Services Youth Sports tackle football camp continues through July 5. Camp dates are July 9-12 and July 16-19. The camp is open to children 7 to 13 years old. The cost is \$30. For more information, call 751-5040/7451.

**PARKING LOT/STREET CLOSURE**  
The Joe E. Mann Center parking lot, the Post Conference Room parking lot, and Gregg and Forney streets will be closed for regular traffic from 7 to 11 a.m., June 29 for a Change of Command ceremony.

**SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM**  
The Seamless Summer Feeding Program allows children 18 and younger to have free meals during the summer months. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 9 a.m., lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at C.C. Pinckney Elementary School. For additional locations in the Richland One school district, visit [www.richlandone.org](http://www.richlandone.org).

**ID CARD OFFICE CHANGES**  
The ID Card Office now operates on an appointment-only basis from 9:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday. Walk-ins are welcome 8 to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday.  
To schedule an appointment, visit <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>.

For more information, call 751-7731.

**CIVILIAN CAREER WEBSITE**  
A new website has been launched that consolidates information about civilian training and career development. Visit the site at [www.civiliantraining.army.mil](http://www.civiliantraining.army.mil). The Army Civilian Training and Leader Development Division also established a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/armyciviliantraining](http://www.facebook.com/armyciviliantraining).

**CAC REPLACEMENTS**  
Some Common Access Cards that are set to expire after Sept. 30 will have to be replaced because they contain older encryption keys that will no longer provide network access. Most CACs contain the newer, compatible encryption keys. Personnel who are affected, will receive an email from [DMDC.CAC.Replacement.Notification@osd.pentagon.mil](mailto:DMDC.CAC.Replacement.Notification@osd.pentagon.mil). To replace the CAC, visit <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil> and schedule an appointment.

**THRIFT SHOP NEWS**  
The Thrift Shop will be closed July 3-12. Donations may be dropped off any time at the back door.  
The shop has donated more than \$12,000 to various community organizations between June 2011 and May.  
The Thrift Shop is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesdays.

**HIRED! TERM**  
The next HIRED! teen apprenticeship program term is scheduled for Aug.

26 through Nov. 17. Applications are due Aug. 17. A successful interview must be completed before the start of the term.

**OPM SURVEY UNDER WAY**  
The Office of Personnel Management has begun its 2012 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey. The survey runs through Monday.

*Visit the community calendar at [www.jackson.army.mil](http://www.jackson.army.mil) for a full listing of calendar events.*  
*Send your announcements to [ffleader@gmail.com](mailto:ffleader@gmail.com).*  
*Community announcements may be edited to comply with Leader style and Public Affairs regulations. Announcements are due one week before the publication date. For more information, call 751-7045.*

Off-post events

*The Fort Jackson Leader accepts only off-post announcements for those organizations or events that directly relate to service members and their families.*

**SPIRIT OF AMERICA TOUR**  
The Army’s Spirit of America tour will perform at the Colonial Life Arena Sept. 21 and 22. Tickets are free and available at [www.soa.mdw.army.mil](http://www.soa.mdw.army.mil).

**MARINES WANTED**  
The Marine Corps League, Detachment 829 is looking for Marines to join. For more information, email [hhulett156@bell-south.net](mailto:hhulett156@bell-south.net).

# Laughter, Love and Fiddle tour to entertain troops on post

By **THERESA O'HAGAN**

*Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation*

You may have not heard of Natalie Stovall in the past, but soon you will be hearing a lot from her and about her.

Stovall has risen to fame on college campuses across the country and has been named the 2012 Entertainer of the Year and Female Entertainer of the Year by Campus Activities Magazine. Stovall is currently on a tour of military installations and will come to Fort Jackson July 7.

While on a concert tour overseas for the military, Stovall met a Soldier who married days before deploying. He asked Stovall to write a song he could sing to his wife when he returns home.

On her website, [www.nataliestovall.com](http://www.nataliestovall.com), Stovall wrote, "While we were performing overseas in Djibouti last year for the military I ended up talking with a Soldier who had gotten married a few days before his deployment and had basically missed the entire first year of his marriage while being deployed. He asked if I could write a song for his wife that he could play for her when he got home... His sadness and sincerity really touched me ... Especially knowing the fact that his story is far from unique. When I got back to Nashville I sat down with my friend Ruth Collins and we wrote a song for them. We would like to dedicate it to that couple and every military couple that are sacrificing so much for all of us."

Stovall is a native of Tennessee, a state with a long history of its residents serving in the military, and Stovall herself comes from a military family. Stovall's father is a retired colonel, and she grew up in the culture of the Army.

"For me doing the military shows is more than worth it, on many levels," she told Campus Activities Magazine. "Playing for the military is 100 percent absolutely the best audiences that we have ever seen. There is this unbelievable cycle of gratitude that has honestly been the most baffling thing to deal with.

"So, we are there, brought in and paid for as a means of saying thanks by playing for the troops. We are there because of what they do for us ... it's the only way I know how to say thank you," she was quoted in the article. "You don't feel like normal words can say thank you enough for the sacrifices they are making for all of us, but when they say thank you to me for being there, well that's when my head just starts to explode, because I don't know how to handle that. At the same time, it is what is so beautiful about those shows. We are there to say thank you for their service (in addition to the gigs), and they say thank you over and over because we bring a piece of home to them there and I'm sure it's ridiculously sappy to anyone who might see it from the outside, but I have grown to love it."

Stovall is a talented fiddle player and country singer with some definite rock and roll chops, which give her sound and energy diverse enough to appeal to country fans and nonfans alike. Her rendition of Charlie Daniels' hit, "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," has been described by reviewers as having "Metallica-like riffs."

This spring saw the release of her second record, "Standing My Ground" — an EP featuring five new songs written by Stovall along with her version of, "The Devil Went down To Georgia."



*Army photo*

**Natalie Stovall, pictured at a concert at Fort Polk, La., in 2011, will perform on Fort Jackson July 7.**

"It's amazing; my version of 'Devil' has been such a big part of my show ever since I started my first band," Stovall said in her official biography. "I mean, for the past five years people have been coming up to me and asking if I would record my version. And although part of me felt crazy for taking on the responsibility of recording such a legendary fiddle song, I just knew it was the right thing to do. I really wanted to give something special to everyone that's stuck with me and been a part of this adventure so far."

Stovall has already been selected to open for acts like Gretchen Wilson, Little Big Town, Gloriana, Justin Moore, Josh Gracin, Trent Tomlinson, Safetysuit and The Doobie Brothers.

Stovall's first professional gig singing and playing the fiddle was at the age of 10. She's performed everywhere from Oprah to the Grand Ole Opry. She was the first performer ever to be invited to sing, "God Bless America" for the president at the White House Press Correspondents Dinner. She did all of this before her first record deal.

Stovall will perform at the pavilion between Palmetto Falls Water Park and Palmetto Greens Miniature Golf, Saturday, July 7, 4 to 7 p.m. as part of her "Laughter, Love and Fiddle" tour. This concert is free with water park admission and costs \$5 per person for all others. Opening for Stovall is comedian Paul Varghese. Varghese has performed on Last Comic Standing, HBO Comedy Festival, and TBS Comedy Festival.

The show is appropriate for all ages. Proceeds benefit quality of life programs for Soldiers and families.

For more information, call Charles Stoudemire at 751-0891.

## FMWR calendar

### THURSDAY

- ❑ Visit **Century Lanes** for food, fun and bowling.
- ❑ **Victory Bingo**, 2 to 11 p.m.
- ❑ Sleepy Storytime at the **Post Library**, 6:30 to 7 p.m. Come in pajamas and go home ready for bed.
- ❑ **Magruder's Pub and Club** happy hour, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Appetizers are available, while they last.

### FRIDAY

- ❑ Look what I can do, **Thomas Lee Hall Library**. Call 751-5589 for more information.
- ❑ Visit **Thomas Lee Hall Library** for Mommy and Me, a lapsit program, starts at 11 a.m.
- ❑ Visit the **Officers' Club**, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the seafood buffet.
- ❑ **Victory Bingo**, starts at 2 p.m.
- ❑ Dance to a variety of music provided by DJ Randall at **Magruder's Club**, 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. Magruder's Club is located in the back of Magruder's Pub. Cover charge is \$5 for civilians and \$3 for military. Every other Friday, sing along to Linda's Carraoke Karaoke. Be early for happy hour, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Appetizers are available, while they last.
- ❑ Every Friday is Artistic Expression with Jake at 6:30 p.m. in the Teen Room at the **Youth Services Center**.

### SATURDAY

- ❑ **Victory Bingo**, starts at 1 p.m.
- ❑ Step Team practice, 2 p.m., dance room at the **Youth Services Center**.

### SUNDAY

- ❑ Enjoy a traditional Sunday brunch buffet at the **Officers' Club**, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- ❑ **Victory Bingo**, starts at 10 a.m.
- ❑ Every Sunday is Family Day at the **Youth Center**, 2-6 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

- ❑ Victory Readers Club, 6 to 8 p.m., **Post Library**.
- ❑ **4-H Club** meets 4 to 5 p.m; for grades 1-5. Call 751-1136 for information.

*For a full calendar of events, visit [www.fortjacksonmwr.com](http://www.fortjacksonmwr.com).*

### ONGOING OFFERS

- ❑ The Officers' Club specializes in wedding receptions, anniversaries, promotions and other special occasions. For more information, call 782-8761.
- ❑ The Officers' Club is open for lunch Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- ❑ Child, Youth and School Services provides child care and youth programming on Saturdays at no cost for active-duty parents who must work to meet mission requirements. Others requiring care may sign up, but will pay the usual hourly rate. All users must be signed up with Child, Youth and School Services. Registration is free at the Central Enrollment Office in the Joe E. Mann Center. For more information, call 751-4865.



U.S. Army **MWR**



# Case study explains VA disability claims

By **CAPT. NICK ALLEN**  
Legal Assistance Office

Every day, the Department of Veterans Affairs handles thousands of claims from veterans of all service branches for injuries or disease sustained while on active duty. These veterans — or their family members in some cases — all seek financial compensation for injury or disease. The VA decides whether to approve these claims or deny them. If approved, depending on the case, the VA might pay a claimant thousands of dollars to help offset medical costs and other expenses.

Many veterans can find the VA claims process to be confusing, unhelpful, and overly complicated. One way to help understand the process is by illustrating the matter through the lens of arguably the most high-profile issue that VA disability has confronted over the past 50 years — service member exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.

## THE DISABILITY

In the early 1960s, the U.S. military launched Operation Trail Dust. Seeking to deny Vietcong guerrilla fighters the cover of the jungle as well as food from the land, U.S. aircraft dumped millions of gallons of chemicals across South Vietnam designed to kill all vegetation. Although many herbicides were used, the most notorious was Agent Orange.

Made by American chemical companies, the herbicide turned out to be severely toxic to people, killing and maiming hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese and causing many more birth defects and stillbirths. Furthermore, application of Agent Orange was so pervasive in South Vietnam that it became saturated in the soil and most natural water sources to the point that contaminated and non-contaminated areas became almost indistinguishable.

During the war and after, U.S. service members who were in Vietnam also began to report suffering from conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure. These conditions included various cancers, nerve damage, lymphoma and respiratory disorders. Although veterans began suing the developers of Agent Orange and making VA claims as early as 1978, the VA did not consider the matter wholeheartedly until the mid-1990s. Today, Agent Orange exposure is one of the biggest issues managed by the VA claims process.

## FILING THE CLAIM

To file a claim today to pursue compensation for Agent Orange exposure due to service in the Vietnam War, Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations outlines a process which a person filing a claim (known as a “claimant”) must follow in order to receive compensation. A claimant must show three things:

□ Medical diagnosis of a disease the VA recognizes as associated with Agent Orange: Section 3.039(e) of Title 38 outlines a number of diseases and other conditions that

the VA will presume is related to herbicide exposure. Such conditions include prostate cancer, Parkinson’s disease, Hodgkin’s disease, and certain forms of lymphoma, among others. So, if a claimant suffers from one of these conditions, the VA will generally not require proof that the condition was caused by herbicide exposure, although a claimant may need to meet a disability rating percentage threshold to have a claim honored.

□ Competent evidence of service in Vietnam: If a claimant served even just a day in Vietnam anytime between 1962 and 1975, and the claimant suffers from one of the above conditions, the VA will consider that condition as being a “service-connected disability” relating to exposure from Agent Orange (or another herbicide). Be aware, though, that not every veteran who served on a Vietnam tour of duty will qualify. For instance, a “blue water” Sailor who served aboard a deep-sea aircraft carrier and never stepped foot on Vietnam soil will generally not have his condition considered service-connected for Agent Orange purposes. However, a “brown water” Sailor, who served aboard a PT boat patrolling inland rivers will likely be eligible.

□ Competent medical evidence that the disease began within the deadline: This point can be a major barrier to compensation. At this point a claim can sometimes be denied because a condition is considered “pre-existing.” In other words, the VA will conclude that the claimant’s condition existed before his time of service in Vietnam. Therefore, the claimant should not receive compensation. However, if the claimant’s service in Vietnam and resulting exposure aggravated or worsened the pre-existing condition, he may still be eligible to receive compensation.

## CLAIM DENIAL AND APPEALS PROCESS

If a claimant’s application is denied or if the claimant’s disability rating is lower than expected, a claimant can begin the appeal process by filing a “Notice of Disagreement.” The claimant has one year to file the NOD with a VA regional office. When the claimant files the NOD, he or she can request that the claim be reviewed for the second time by a decision review officer at the VA regional office or that the regional VA office issue a “Statement of the Case,” which provides a thorough explanation of the denial.

Once the Statement of the Case is received, the claimant will have 60 days (or a year from the initial denial, whichever

is later) to file VA Form 9 to “Appeal to Board of Veterans’ Appeals” (board) in Washington. The claimant can request for the Board to decide the case without a hearing or request a hearing before a veterans’ law judge, which is generally conducted via video conference. The board will review the appeal and decide on whether to grant the result the claimant seeks.

If the claimant still does not get the desired result, he or she can ask the board to reconsider its decision, but the board will only reconsider it if it finds “obvious error of fact or law” in its original decision. On the other hand, the claimant can appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. This court is independent of the VA and actually only hears appeals from claimants. So, if the claimant prevails before the board, the VA cannot appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans

Claims.

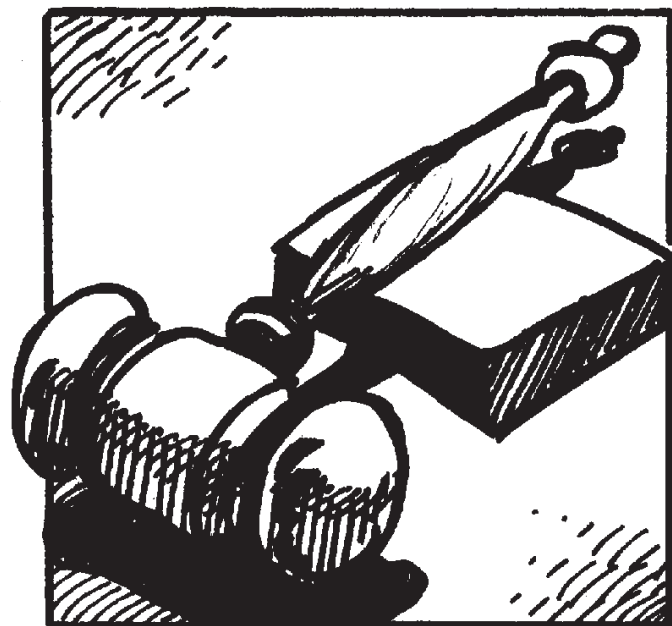
If the claimant still does not prevail at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, the claimant can take the case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Finally, if the claimant continues to be unsuccessful, the claimant can apply for the case to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE VA PROCESS

Many who have filed with the VA to recover benefits find that the process is very slow. The VA case load is very big and although some cases can resolve quickly, a claimant should expect a claim to take many months to resolve. The process can also be much more complicated than indicated above. In addition, VA disability claims cover many more conditions than those caused by Agent Orange exposure. A claimant should always seek competent legal advice and representation if he or she would like to file.

The Fort Jackson Judge Advocate General office cannot provide legal representation for VA disability claims. The office is also limited in terms of how much advice it can provide on such matters. However, the office can provide information on attorneys to contact to those who are considering filing a VA disability claim.

If you would like to talk about VA disability in general or other similar concerns, call the Legal Assistance Office at 751-7657 to schedule an appointment with an attorney.



## Leader deadlines

Article submissions are due two weeks before publication.

For example, an article for the July 6 Leader must be submitted by Friday.

Announcement submissions are due one week be-

fore publication.

For example, an announcement for the July 6 Leader must be submitted by June 29.

Send submissions to FJLeader@gmail.com.

For more information, call 751-7045.

# Use your freedom to celebrate, serve

By **CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) MATT MILLER**  
*2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment*

The uncomfortable and sticky humidity always seems to come early in Columbia. Summer has only just arrived, but the heat of its breath has been here for a while. Long have pools been open for the summer season and long have evening grill-outs been a social highlight.

This warmth was most confusing for our children, who were energized by the sun's rays and wondered why their school still held them prisoner from play. Evidently, no one told nature that she must wait until the summer holidays to heat up.

It is during these warm months that we have placed two holidays that cause us to reflect: Memorial Day and Independence Day. It is in this season of the year that we celebrate and recognize our freedom.

Memorial Day reminds us that there are thousands of men and women who have suffered and died to see that their family, friends and fellow countrymen could enjoy the American way of life. In solemn remembrance, those living with the pain of loss place flags and flowers on the graves of their fallen.

Independence Day takes another look at freedom. On Independence Day we recognize the daring and danger-



ous step our founding fathers took in declaring that no man would take away their God-given right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We recognize that our great nation began with brave men standing up for what was right.

And so we celebrate our independence: We grill hamburgers, steaks, salmon, chicken and an assortment of vegetables. Southerners don't really need a reason to shoot fireworks, but on July 4 we turn the night's sky every color imaginable. Unfortunately, however, for some this is where their celebration and remembrance ends. This is the extent of their thankfulness.

I for one love the smell of barbecue brisket, and I enjoy watching my children run when they finally get a firework fuse to light. But what a sad day it would be if the sacrifice of the fallen would be forgotten because of the family grill. What a sad day it would be if the flash of bottle rockets distracted us from giving thanks to God and our founders for the freedom we enjoy.

By all means, grill out while you are on holiday, and light up the sky with celebration. But also ask yourself this question: What have you done this year to show your thankfulness for being able to live and to love as you please?

Paul put it like this: *"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love."* (Galatians 5:13)

Always remember that you were given the gift of freedom by the almighty God. That freedom was upheld by the death and wounding of so many. The example of our forefathers has created an obligation for us — to serve one another.



**PROTESTANT**

- Sunday  
9 a.m. McCrady Chapel (SCARNG), McCrady Training Center  
9:30 a.m. Hispanic, Post Theater  
9:30 a.m. Main Post Chapel  
8:30 a.m. Daniel Circle Chapel Gospel service, Daniel Circle Chapel (first service)  
10:15 a.m. Daniel Circle Chapel Gospel service, Daniel Circle Chapel (second service)  
10:45 a.m. Sunday school, Main Post Chapel  
11 a.m. Memorial Chapel  
11 a.m. Chapel Next and Children's Church, Bayonet Chapel
- Wednesday  
6 p.m. Prayer service, Magruder Chapel

**Protestant Bible Study**

- Sunday  
9:30 a.m. Chapel Next Bible study, Bayonet Chapel
- Monday  
7 p.m. Women's Bible study (PWOC), Main Post Chapel
- Tuesday  
9:30 a.m. to noon Women's Bible study

- (PWOC), Main Post Chapel
- Wednesday  
6 p.m. Gospel prayer service, Daniel Circle Chapel  
7 p.m. Gospel Bible study, Daniel Circle Chapel  
7 p.m. LDS scripture study, Anderson Street Chapel  
11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Fresh Encounter Bible Study, Family Life and Resiliency Center (5460 Marion Ave., left of the POV lot)
- Saturday  
8 a.m. Men's prayer breakfast (PMOC), Main Post Chapel (every second Saturday of the month in the activity room)

**Protestant Youth of the Chapel**

- Sunday  
5 to 6:30 p.m. Club Beyond youth group, Main Post Chapel
- Saturday  
11 a.m. Daniel Circle Chapel youth group, Dorn VA Hospital (first Saturday of each month)

**CATHOLIC**

- Monday through Thursday  
11:30 a.m. Mass, Main Post Chapel
- Sunday  
9:30 a.m. CCD (September through May), Education Center  
9:30 a.m. Religious ed class for adults (September through May), Main Post Chapel  
9:30 a.m. Religious ed class for children (September through May), Main Post Chapel  
10:30 a.m. Reconciliation (after Mass or by appointment), Main Post Chapel

- 11 a.m. Mass (Main Post Chapel)  
12:30 p.m. Catholic youth ministry, Main Post Chapel  
7 p.m. Women's scripture study, Main Post Chapel

- Wednesday  
7 p.m. Rosary, Main Post Chapel  
7:30 p.m. RCIA/Adult inquiry (September through May), Main Post Chapel
- Friday  
11:30 a.m. Ladies of the parish, Main Post Chapel (first Friday of each month)

**ANGLICAN/LITURGICAL**

- Sunday  
8 a.m. Anderson Street Chapel

**ISLAMIC**

- Sunday  
8 to 10 a.m. Islamic studies, Main Post Chapel
- Friday  
1 to 2 p.m. Jumah services, Main Post Chapel

**JEWISH**

- Sunday  
9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Worship service, Memorial Chapel  
10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Jewish book study, Post Conference Room

**LATTER DAY SAINTS**

- Sunday  
9:30 to 11 a.m. Anderson Street Chapel

- Thursday  
7 to 8 p.m. LDS scripture study, Anderson Street Chapel

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

- Sunday  
11:30 a.m. Anderson Street Chapel

**ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS**

- Anderson Street Chapel**  
2335 Anderson St., corner of Jackson Boulevard, 751-7032
- Bayonet Chapel**  
9476 Kemper St., 751-6322/4542
- Daniel Circle Chapel**  
3359 Daniel Circle, corner of Jackson Boulevard, 751-1297/4478
- Education Center**  
4581 Scales Ave.
- Family Life Chapel**  
4580 Scales Ave, corner of Strom Thurmond Boulevard (inside of Main Post Chapel), 751-5780
- Magruder Chapel**  
4360 Magruder Ave., 751-3883
- Main Post Chapel**  
4580 Scales Ave., corner of Strom Thurmond Boulevard, 751-6469/6681
- McCrady Chapel (SCARNG)**  
3820 McCrady Road (located at McCrady Training Center)
- Memorial Chapel**  
4470 Jackson Blvd., 751-7324
- Warrior Chapel (120th AG Bn.)**  
1895 Washington St., 751-5086/7427
- Installation Chaplain's Office**  
4475 Gregg St., 751-3121/6318



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